



0862.022490.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
SHUNICHI KAIZU) Examiner: K. Poon
Application No.: 10/050,780) Art Unit: 2624
Filed: January 18, 2002)
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,)
IMAGE PROCESSING)
APPARATUS, IMAGE)
PROCESSING PROGRAM AND)
STORAGE MEDIUM HOLDING)
IMAGE PROCESSING)
PROGRAM CODE) April 13, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO ELECTION-OF-SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Office Action dated March 13, 2006, imposing an election-of-species requirement which requires an election of one of the following species:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

April 13, 2006
(Date of Deposit)

LEONARD P. DIANA (Reg. No. 29,296)
(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Signature

April 13, 2006
Date of Signature

Species I: the embodiment disclosed in Fig. 1, i.e. the first embodiment (see, for example, page 12, lines 17-25 of the specification); and

Species II: the embodiment disclosed in Fig. 4, i.e. the second embodiment (see, for example, page 21, lines 19 et seq. of the specification).

Applicant hereby elects Species II, on which Claims 1-18 are readable, for initial prosecution on the merits. Applicant notes that, although the Office Action states that no claims are generic, it is submitted that Claims 1-6 and 9-18 are generic, for the following reasons.

The relationship between the elements of Claim 1 and the first and second embodiments (i.e. Species I and II, respectively) is as follows.

Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus connected to at least an external controller via an external bus. First image processing means processes input image data (see, e.g., image processor 2 in Fig. 1 or image processors 2 and 301 in Fig. 4). Image storage means stores image data processed by the first image processing means (see, e.g., image buffer 4 in Figs. 1 and 4). Second image processing means processes image data read from the image storage means (see, e.g., image processor 5 in Figs. 1 and 4). Output control means outputs image data processed by the second image processing means via the external bus (see, e.g., image output controller 6 in Figs. 1 and 4). Preservation means preserves the result of processing on the image data by the second processing means, in correspondence with a predetermined amount of image data output by the output control means (see, e.g., bus I/F unit 1 in Figs. 1 and 4). Pseudo-master means starts and controls a preservation operation by the preservation means, in correspondence with the

predetermined amount of image data output by the output control means (see, e.g., internal pseudo master 7 in Figs. 1 and 4).¹

This relationship is also maintained in Claim 11.

Claim 7 is related to the second embodiment (Species II, elected herein). Specifically, Claim 7 is directed to the image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the first image processing means includes first processing means for generating first image data (see, e.g., image processor 2 in Fig. 4) and second processing means (see, e.g., image processor 301 in Fig. 4) for generating second image data.

In the second embodiment, "image data 3" is further obtained by resolution conversion of "image data 1" (see, e.g., page 22, lines 10-20 of the present specification). The "image data 3" is used to display an image in more detail in comparison with a thumbnail image ("image data 2"). Claims 7 and 8 are readable on Species II, while the other claims (Claims 1-6 and 9-18) are readable on both Species I and Species II.

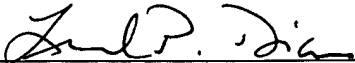
Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1-6 and 9-18 are generic, and that all of the pending claims (Claims 1-18) are readable on Species II.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

¹/It is of course to be understood that the references to various portions of the present application are by way of illustration and example only, and that the claims are not limited by the details shown in the portions referred to.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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